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TODAY

Weismann convicted of attempted murder

RAINE MARCUS

MIRIAM Weissman, the 76-year-old Bat Yam woman accused of strangling her daughter Nathalie in her sleep, was acquitted of premeditated murder yesterday but convicted of attempted murder by Tel Aviv District Court.

Weissman, who was freed on bail by the Supreme Court in November after a year in custody and has continually denied killing her 33-year-old daughter, wept after the verdict.

"Look at me!" she said, tearfully. "I am 76 years old. Could I do such a thing? It's impossible! I loved my daughter, she was dear to me. Today is indeed a black day for me. I have received a punishment for nothing."

Weissman will be sentenced on February 21, but her lawyer, Eyal Shomroni-Cohen, said he intends to appeal to the Supreme Court, whatever the sentence is.

Throughout the trial Weissman insisted that Nathalie, the mother of a young daughter, had taken an overdose of some 200 anti-depressant pills. But pathologist Dr. Yehuda Hiss had ruled that suffocation had caused Nathalie's death, and that extensive bruising and scratches were found on her neck.

Shomroni-Cohen brought in expert witnesses from abroad who testified that her death could have been caused by a drug overdose. He also argued that the bruising and scratches were caused by her falling and then trying to strangle herself.

Of the panel of three judges, Judge Sarah Sirotka wanted to acquit Weissman on grounds of reasonable doubt; but Judges Dvora Berliner and Ze'ev Hammer voted to convict, ruling that she lied and gave contradictory versions of events throughout the trial.

Weissman and her husband, Michael, were arrested after Nathalie, known to suffer from depression, was found dead in her bed in December 1994. They were charged with her premeditated murder by strangling. Last May, Michael Weissman was acquitted by a district court judge on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Yesterday's conviction for attempted murder, which carries a maximum 20-year sentence, is considered a rare verdict, which Shomroni-Cohen said is another reason to appeal.



Workers examine the skeleton of a 2,600-year-old Egyptian child uncovered inside a coffin at the site of a partly built museum 30 km. south of Cairo, which the Egyptian government has decided to remove. (AP)

Navon agrees to head inquiry into Ethiopian grievances

BATSHEVA TSUR

ISRAEL'S fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, yesterday agreed to head the commission of inquiry into the grievances of the Ethiopian community.

The decision to set up the committee was made by Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday, when he met with representatives of the community during the violent demonstration in Jerusalem against the policy of discarding blood donations by Ethiopians.

President Ezer Weizman plans to meet heads of the community today at Beit Hanassi to discuss

their problems. At an emergency meeting in Tel Aviv last night, members of the community condemned "manifestations of discrimination and racism."

They called for the dismissal of four doctors - Amnon Ben-David of the Blood Bank; Amos Luria and Zvi Ben-Yishai of Rambam Hospital; and cardiac surgeon Danny Gur - all accused of taking a discriminatory stand against the community.

It was also decided to set up a committee that would monitor the commission's deliberations which are expected to last up to a month. The commission will include representatives of the community.

"We congratulate the prime minister for appointing someone with an international name but only the conclusions of the commission and their application will calm down the community," Adisu Messala, head of the Unified Organizations of Ethiopian Immigrants said last night. But he said, the leaders would "meanwhile 'try to get things back to normal'."

Meanwhile, a conference of leading members of the community, including kessim, will be called to decide on further action, Messala said.

Messala said he had requested that Peres extend the commission's mandate to include all the major problems facing the community: religious issues, education, and suicides in the IDF. Since the publication of the story about the blood being discarded, there have been many cases of depression among community members, Messala said. "Scared" surgeons condemned, Page 3

Minors' AIDS testing bill passes first reading

A BILL, which would allow minors to carry out AIDS tests without their parents' permission unanimously passed first reading in the Knesset last night.

The bill, submitted by MK Benny Temkin (Meretz), proposes that minors who suspect they have been infected with the virus will receive medical advice before the tests. Every attempt will be made to persuade infected minors to tell their parents. "The bill is an attempt to prevent a situation in which youths are scared to be checked for AIDS because they fear telling their parents. The war on AIDS demands that everything be done to encourage people to carry out AIDS tests," Temkin said.

Pentagon memo warning against Jews condemned

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE Defense Department has repudiated a confidential memorandum to military contractors warning that Israel would "aggressively" try to steal US intelligence secrets, partly by using its "strong ethnic ties" in the United States to obtain information.

The memo was "unfortunate, unofficial and unauthorized," and it does not represent Defense Department policy, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said. The memo, written by an unidentified employee of the Defense Investigative Service, was sent to military contractors in the fall.

It was withdrawn in December after senior officials concluded that the author had improperly singled out Jewish ethnicity as a specific counterintelligence concern, *The Washington Post* reported in yesterday's editions.

The confidential memo - a "country counterintelligence profile" on Israel - was first reported in *Moment* magazine and was widely publicized this week by the Anti-Defamation League.

Israel's "recruitment techniques include ethnic targeting, financial aggrandizement, and identification and exploitation of individual frailties" of Americans, the memo said.

"The strong ethnic ties to Israel present in the US, coupled with aggressive and extremely competent intelligence personnel, has resulted in a very pro-

ductive collection effort," said the memo, which was produced in the Syracuse, New York, office of the Defense Investigative Service.

"This is a distressing charge which impugns American Jews and borders on antisemitism," Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary William Perry.

Foxman called on the department to "immediately initiate an internal investigation into the matter so as to reprimand those responsible and prevent a similar occurrence in the future." The memo was based on un-

Hamas man fatally stabs IDF soldier

Government, IDF place blame on PA for allowing attacker out of Area A

JON IMMANUEL, ON LEVY and DAVID RUDGE

A DEFECTIVE metal detector apparently allowed a Palestinian Hamas member armed with two long kitchen knives to enter the Dotan army camp south of Jenin yesterday, where he stabbed to death St.-Sgt. Ehd Tal.

Tal, 21, will be buried today at 3 p.m. at the cemetery on his kibbutz, Maoz Haim.

The IDF Spokesman said the killer, identified as Mahmoud Siriyeh, 19, a resident of the Jenin refugee camp, "entered through the main gate of the camp. When he passed the metal detector, the machine emitted a buzz indicating he was carrying a metal object. But when he took his jacket and belt off and passed through the machine a second time, the alarm did not sound."

Siriyeh was then allowed to pass into the camp, which houses the civil administration, district coordination and liaison officer, police, and troops. Palestinians enter the camp, mainly from villages in area C, to renew various permits.

Tal was preparing coffee in a kitchen when the attacker entered and stabbed him in the back. Tal struggled with him and screamed, receiving a second stab wound in the chest, but alerting his fellow soldiers, who ran to the scene and captured the attacker. But Tal died of his wounds before he could be airlifted to a hospital.

Siriyeh was later identified as having been arrested in the past and was not permitted to cross the Green Line, military sources said. He told interrogators he belongs to Hamas and had carried out the attack to escape personal and financial problems.

The army inquiry into the incident will examine why the detector did not spot the knives and why there was no body search. "There was a foul-up," a senior military source said.

The civil administration blamed lax security precautions by reservists for the attack. However, the IDF and several ministers placed much responsibility on the Palestinian Police.

Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, the government coordinator in the territories, called his Palestinian counterpart, civil affairs negotiator Jamil Tarifi, to demand that the Palestinian Police carry out more "preventive operations" to ensure that potential attackers are not allowed out of Area A, where the police have full security control. The Jenin refugee camp, where the killer lived, is in Area A.

"The first thing to note is that it happened in Area C," which is under sole Israeli control, said Brig. Ziad Atrash, the chief Palestinian liaison officer.

Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shahal denounced the attack and said Israel would act aggressively and press the Palestinian Authority to ensure there would be no resumption of terror attacks.

Shahal, who spoke to reporters during a visit to the North yesterday, said there had been a number of problems in the Jenin area since it was handed over to the control of the PA, and these must be solved.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr, who was also in the North yesterday, said that although there are still those who oppose the peace process, "the less terror, the more the process can progress. The more terror, then the peace agreements cannot progress."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who visited the Carmel Park Hai Bar yesterday, also condemned the attack. He noted, however, that the level of terrorism had dropped dramatically in the past few months.

"It has dropped to the extent that even the most ardent opponents of the Oslo 1 and 2 agreements realize that they have no choice but to jump on the bandwagon or the wagon will run them down," said Sarid.

Kibbutz loses 14th soldier

ST.-SGT. Ehd Tal, 22, of Kibbutz Maoz Haim, was to have been released in another two months. Tal was the 14th member of the kibbutz to fall in the line of duty.

News of his death reached the kibbutz in the afternoon, while his parents, Yehoshua and Hadassah, were vacationing at the Dead Sea.

Ehd had always dreamed of serving in an elite unit, but a health problem forced him to serve in the military government building in Jenin.

A friend said Ehd had always been a leader in his class while growing up, and enjoyed working in the barn. "He was the one we always relied on and knew would always be in the right place at the right time," said another friend.

"He had an inner peace which radiated a feeling of comfort to all those around him... His death shocked us all... We thought we were done with this, that the boys were being released and it was all over, that we would not run into such things, but unfortunately we were proven wrong."

In addition to his parents, Ehd Tal is survived by two brothers, Eitan and Amichai, and a sister, Ariela. He will be buried tomorrow at the kibbutz. (J.I. and Him)

Mass grave believed to hold Holocaust victims unearthed

VIENNA (AP) - Construction workers have unearthed what appears to be a mass grave containing the remains of Holocaust victims at the site of a controversial hydropower project, state television reported yesterday.

Two trenches filled with skeletons were discovered during earth-moving work for the power plant near Lambach, about 220 kilometers west of Vienna.

Ecological activists have been trying to prevent the project, claiming it would destroy wildlife and is unnecessary.

Construction work was immediately halted when the skeletons were discovered, but it was not known whether the power project would be stopped.

believed aged 20-25, were exhumed, television said. But it was not known how many more skeletons might be in the grave.

The television report said the remains may belong to Hungarian Jews imprisoned at nearby Gunkirchen, a concentration camp that was part of the infamous Mauthausen death camp where thousands of Jews and others were killed by the Nazis during World War II.

However, there was no independent confirmation of the

report. Interior Ministry officials were investigating.

The Gunkirchen camp was set up as late as March 1945. When US troops liberated it in May that year, it held about 12,000 emaciated inmates.

According to the report, the camp contained mostly Hungarian Jews brought there in so-called death marches.

Local records show that dozens died daily when a typhoid epidemic spread among inmates in the waning weeks of the war.

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IAF warplanes blast Hizbullah base north of security zone

ISRAEL Air Force warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jab'l Shaffi region of south Lebanon yesterday, following the abortive car bomb attack in the security zone on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the situation in Lebanon is "very troubling" and he fears for the safety of IDF soldiers. He said Sunday's attempted attack shows Hizbullah intends to act against both the South Lebanese Army and the IDF.

The IDF Spokesman said the targets of the air strike were used as bases for Hizbullah activities. The spokesman said the pilots had reported good hits and that all the planes returned safely.

News agencies reporting from

Lebanon said two jets carried out three separate runs at the targets in M'litia village inside 10 minutes and fired six rockets. The reports said the warplanes came under anti-aircraft fire from Lebanese army gunners stationed in the area, but the planes dropped missile-deflecting balloons and were not hit.

There were no immediate reports of any Hizbullah casualties, although Hizbullah gunmen closed off the target area to Lebanese army troops and security forces. The news agency reports said the raid was the first IAF air strike in Lebanon so far this year and that it was seen as retaliation for Sunday's attempted attack.

No organization has so far

DAVID RUDGE AND LIAT COLLINS

claimed responsibility for the abortive car bomb attack, although the incident - in which one or more terrorists were believed to have been killed - had all the hallmarks of being the work of Hizbullah.

Shahak said the premature explosion of the truck appears to have been a "work accident," and had it exploded as planned it could have killed and wounded many people, caused a huge toll in human lives and injuries. The total destruction of the truck is making identification of the terrorist or terrorists involved very difficult but there are signs of at least one body. A revolver with a silencer and a Kalashnikov were also found there.

The rival Amal Shi'ite move-

ment has claimed responsibility for a string of long-range attacks on SLA and IDF positions in the zone this past week. These included a mortar, machine gun and light weapons attack on the SLA's post in Barasheet village, in the zone's western sector early yesterday. The same post came under fire late Monday night. There were no SLA or IDF casualties in either of the incidents, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Shahak told the Knesset committee that since US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last visit in the region there had been an increase in cooperation between Hizbullah, Amal and other rejectionist groups. He said Hizbullah apparently aims at bringing about the collapse of the

SLA which would force Israel into choosing between manning the posts the SLA leave or taking other action. Shahak said if the Syrian negotiations stall, Hizbullah will probably carry out as many attacks as possible and "Syria might lack the motivation to stop them."

A senior intelligence officer told the committee Hizbullah is seeking new channels through which it can receive arms and ammunition, including via Turkey, on the assumption that there might be a policy change in the region which could rule out the Syrian route. Shahak said that in 1995, 23 IDF soldiers fell in the northern sector and 86 were wounded, 29 SLA soldiers fell and 67 were wounded, while some 100 terrorists were killed and 74 wounded.

NEWSLINE
with URI LUBRANI

Uri Lubrani is government coordinator on Lebanon. Were the recent abortive attacks - Sunday's car bomb and the killing of four members of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-GC on a terror mission - reminders that south Lebanon is far from calm? Absolutely. We have been led to believe that there is a degree of reduction in the level of operations against us, but there is nothing of the sort. Instead it's a combination of [ongoing] operations that were either preempted or intercepted and stopped, or operations which misfired by sheer luck, as in the car bomb attack.

Are the Syrians really trying to calm the situation in south Lebanon and if so why aren't they succeeding? They say that they have been trying. I would say that if they have been trying they have not been trying hard enough. If they really set their minds on doing so they could. I have no doubt about it.

Do you know who was behind the attempted car bomb attack and whether any terrorists were killed when it exploded prematurely? I have no doubt that this was the work of Hizbullah. To the best of my knowledge, there was someone in the car if not more than one person.

What can Israel do that it has not done already to reassure the SLA and residents of the zone that they won't be abandoned in the event of a peace accord with Syria and Lebanon? What the prime minister said the other day when he met with [SLA commander] Gen. Antoine Lahad is a clear statement of our policy which his predecessor, the late Yitzhak Rabin laid down. There are two basic conditions: Nothing will change our deployment in the security zone without us being totally sure that the military capabilities of Hizbullah and the other terrorist organizations have been dismantled. We also have to be guaranteed, in the most absolute way, that Lebanese residents of the security zone, including members of the SLA and their dependents, will not be harassed, molested or penalized because they have lived in the security zone for the past decade.

Are these Israel's red lines in any future peace negotiations with Lebanon? In my mind, absolutely, yes.

David Rudge

Tibi: Covenant will be changed before the elections

THE articles in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction will be changed before Israel's elections, even if they are moved up, Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi yesterday told a group of senior officers at the IDF's National Defense College.

Tibi appeared before a receptive audience of dozens of officers, together with Mohammed Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement. He said that, on the one hand, the dates for changing the covenant are "not holy," but on the other, the commitment of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat under Oslo 2 requires them to be abrogated.

"But you shouldn't stand there holding a stopwatch," said Tibi, adding it is likely the abrogation of the covenant will take place slightly after the agreed date.

Tibi responded to a Likud demand for an explanation as to why he had been invited to address the college by saying the time has come for the Likud to change its approach and act in accord with the changes in the Middle East. He pointed out that the abrogation of the covenant before the elections would deprive the Likud of ammunition it was expecting to use to attack the government and the Oslo agreements.

"I very much enjoyed appearing before the National Defense College," said Tibi, adding that he has already been invited back for a second appearance. (Iim)

Special groups to broadcast on cable TV

From now on homosexual, lesbian, human rights, and other special interest organizations may broadcast on public access cable TV, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

Cables Council chairman Michal Raftel-Caduri said the local channels provide a democratic forum for every community. "There is no reason to block any legitimate expression of the ideas, culture, and concerns of any organization, provided they keep within Bezeq regulations."

Helen Kaye



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat poses with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson (right) and Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen in Stockholm yesterday, where he called on Sweden to help negotiate the future status of Jerusalem. "We are in need of your help. I am saying it bluntly and openly," Arafat said. (Reuters)

Shahak troubled by Jenin attack

LIAT COLLINS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that he had been "troubled" by the possibility of attacks like yesterday's fatal one at the Dotan army base south of Jenin. He described the incident as "serious" and gave MKs a short review of the facts known at the time.

"Yesterday's fatal attack in Jenin is an expression of the government's inability to ensure the safety of Israeli citizens, the peace, and the relations with the Palestinians," said Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav. "It also expresses the lack of sincerity on the part of the Palestinian Authority in taking steps to prevent terror attacks and murders."

Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) said the incident and the detention of an Israeli by the Palestinian Police in Ramallah show the wide gulf between the written agreements and reality. "The ink has not yet dried on the signatures to the latest agreement with the Palestinians and look what happens," said MK Avner Shaki (NRP). "The terrorists have again demonstrated how far removed they are from preserving agreements."

"It's impossible to trust the agreements signed by terrorists who intend violating them whenever they wish," said Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan. Labor faction head Ra'anan Cohen strongly criticized the Palestinian Authority following the attack. "The full responsibility belongs to the Palestinian Authority which is obliged to provide security and preserve the peace," he said.

He said the Labor faction is calling on Yasser Arafat to maintain security in the areas under his control. Meiriz faction chairman Ran Cohen said the "fatal incident should not have occurred" and also strongly condemned it.

"Both the Palestinian Police and the IDF should ensure that no hostile person can enter the liaison force area. Sadly, I say the tragedy is both ours and theirs."

Ofra resident 'mistakenly' detained by Palestinian police

HERB KEINON

AN Ofra resident was detained by Palestinian policemen in Ramallah for an hour yesterday, the second time in five days that Israelis have been detained in an autonomous Palestinian area.

Nissim Erez, a private contractor, was transporting four Romanian construction workers from Jerusalem to his settlement, near Ramallah, when a car with blue license plates signaled him to pull over and stop.

"When I pulled over," Erez said, "two men in civilian clothes got out of the car, along with another person wearing a Palestinian Police hat." Erez said the men, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, took his identification papers, as well as a pistol, and told him to follow them to a Palestinian Police station.

Last Thursday, an Israeli couple who mistakenly drove into the Palestinian village of Dura in the Hebron Hills was detained for

over three hours by Palestinian policemen, before being released. Shortly after Erez was detained, the Palestinian policemen pulled over another Ofra resident, Meir Kahane, this time near Ramallah's southern exit. Soldiers at an IDF checkpoint nearby saw what transpired, and immediately went to the site and bad Kahane released.

According to Erez, the Palestinian policemen told him that Israelis are not allowed to drive through Ramallah without approval from the Palestinian Authority, and that carrying a weapon is certainly forbidden. Erez, a lieutenant-colonel in the reserves who is well versed with the details of the Oslo agreements, said Israelis are allowed to drive in the autonomous areas and carry licensed weapons.

He said that before he agreed to

follow the men to station, one of policemen trained a gun on him, and started to load it.

Erez waited at the police station for 50 minutes, and said the police treated him "well," even offering him and the workers he was with tea and coffee, though the Palestinians were fasting because of Ramadan. Finally, Gen. Abdul Abed, from the Palestinian liaison office at the DCO in Ramallah, came to release him. Erez said that Abed apologized, admonished the policemen responsible for the arrest, and gave him back his pistol and papers.

Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council which neighbors Ramallah, called an emergency session of the regional council with the IDF commanders in the area last night to discuss ways to deal with sim-

ilar incidents in the future. "We can tolerate the agreement," Wallerstein said, "but we can't tolerate violations of the agreement."

Liati Collins adds

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that under the agreements with the Palestinians, Israeli citizens with licenses are free to carry the weapons with them wherever they travel in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

He also said the Palestinian Police may not detain any Israelis or confiscate their weapons unless they have carried out a serious crime, and even then may only detain them until a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol arrives.

He said yesterday's incident was a deviation from the agreement which should be dealt with accordingly.

New 'five-star' prison opened in Galilee

DAVID RUDGE

THE new Tzalmot Prison, which has been described as being more like a five-star hotel than a jail, was officially opened in the Galilee yesterday.

The ultra-sophisticated facility, which cost over NIS 120 million to construct and equip, is situated on a

170-dunam plot in a scenic part of the Galilee not far from the Druse village Mughar.

The jail, which has a reception desk and hall not unlike those found in modern hotels, has a total of six wings and is designed to hold

720 medium risk prisoners, with a staff of 220 warders and other personnel, including social workers, teachers and medical experts.

The prison, described as one of the most modern in the world, has already become the flagship of the Prisons Service. It has its own hospital, with an intensive care unit as well as X-ray and dental laboratories, and is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment.

All prisoners are obliged to work in the framework of the jail, and must take job training and educational enrichment courses designed to help them find jobs on their release.

Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shahal and Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi aimed to develop a facility which would combine punishment with rehabilitation. Nevertheless, Bibi, who like Shahal participated in the opening ceremony, noted that no matter how golden a cage may be, it remains a cage.

Peres to brief Major on London visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres will hold talks with British counterpart John Major in London today, before making a scheduled address to Britain's Joint Israel Appeal this evening.

A British diplomat said he expects the talks to be routine, since bilateral ties are good. He said Peres would brief Major and British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind on the current talks with Syria, as well as the Palestinian track following the recent elections in the territories.

When pressed, the diplomat said he thinks it likely that Peres would "put down a marker" and say that, should a breakthrough with Damascus occur, Britain may be asked to be part of an international consortium to provide assistance for Syria.

The diplomat said it is unclear whether such assistance would be debt relief or include other forms of aid, such as infrastructure projects and private sector development.

After his London meeting, Peres is to fly to Switzerland to participate in the annual Davos-based World Economic Forum, which brings together leaders of government and the business community to discuss economic trends.

Year of Zionism begins in September

A year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress will begin in September, when the government announces the Year of Zionism, Rami Kornblum, director-general of the organization department of the World Zionist Organization, said yesterday.

Greer Fay Cashman

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, 409 David Street. Nirav Karon-David will speak on "The Internet Revolution."

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Surgeon rebuked for remarks on Ethiopians

"THE remarks by [Prof. Danny] Gur deviate from any ethical standard and I assume they will draw appropriate responses, both from the Health Ministry and the medical association," Prof. Eran Dolev, head of the ethics committee of the Israel Medical Association, said yesterday. He was condemning Gur's televised remarks about the Ethiopian population and alleged dangers in treating its members.

Gur said on Channel 1's *Popolitica* program Sunday night that if an Ethiopian child were brought to him, he would operate on him immediately, but added: "If I were asked whether I am prepared to operate on patients from groups which pose a danger, I would try to get out of it, because I am afraid."

Dolev said he was shocked at Gur's remarks, which would be discussed at the next meeting of the medical ethics committee. Gur will be given a chance to appear before the committee to explain himself.

Dolev said the medical profession has many inherent dangers, and that doctors are aware of the risks they face, especially in the era of AIDS. However, doctors also have a great amount of responsibility in treating patients.

"It is inconceivable that we not give everyone the treatment they need when they need it, based on our own ability and skill," he said.

He added that doctors face dangers in other areas as well, but it is inconceivable that a doctor would not treat wounded on a battlefield just because he was also in danger.

Sheba Hospital officials refused to allow Gur to speak with reporters, but the hospital director issued a statement saying: "A surgeon who refuses to treat every person in need of help will be immediately suspended and brought up on charges." He said Gur would be judged "not by his media comments, but by his actions." (Itim)

Law prevents gov't bodies from accessing 'inaccurate' criminal data

GOVERNMENT bodies will not be able to get information from the criminal registry on cases which have been open for more than a certain number of years, according to regulations approved by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The regulations are meant to prevent people from suffering the consequences of widespread inaccuracies in the registry, caused by the fact that it is not updated regularly. As a result, many cases which are either closed without an indictment being filed or in which the suspect is later acquitted in court remain in the registry, as open cases. This can prevent people from getting a job, prevent them from entering the country, or have various other

serious consequences.

According to figures given the committee, 265,859 cases opened between 1990 and 1995 are still listed on the criminal registry as open, despite the fact that only 72,553 of these are still under investigation. The remainder have been sent on to prosecutors for review. In addition, there are still 9,175 open cases from 1966-1988.

The police blame this on the prosecutors, saying prosecutors do not inform them when cases are either closed without an indictment or concluded in court.

The committee therefore decided that none of the bodies normally authorized to get information from the criminal registry

will be given this information about felony cases which have been open for four years or more without an indictment being filed, or about misdemeanor files which have been open for three years or more with no indictment. For minors, the limit will be three years for felonies and one year for misdemeanors.

A few select groups, such as the committee on appointing judges, will be able to receive information from the registry even after these dates, the committee decided. However, there will also be groups for whom the time limit is even stricter: Three years for felonies and two for misdemeanors for adults, and two years for felonies and one for misdemeanors for minors.

EVELYN GORDON

Acre residents vow to keep fighting resettlement of collaborators

JEWISH and Arab residents of Acre vowed yesterday to intensify their campaign against the resettlement of collaborators from the territories in the city.

The pledge was made after Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr urged Acre's residents to drop their opposition to the move and quietly help those who had helped save the lives of many Israelis.

Protest demonstrations were

held all over the city during Orr's visit yesterday. In a meeting with Mayor Eli De Castro, Orr stressed that the collaborators and their families were being resettled in many places throughout the country, not just Acre.

Some residents, however, maintained that the distribution was not equal or fair and that there had been no reports of such

families being resettled in north Tel Aviv.

De Castro warned that tempers were running high in the city over the issue and that both Jewish and Arab residents were opposed to the newcomers.

He stressed that Acre had enough problems without adding to the burden, and that the issue could upset the harmonious but delicate relationship between Jews and Arabs.

DAVID RUDGE

Real estate agents now need licenses

REAL estate agents will now have to receive a license from the Justice Ministry, according to a law passed by the Knesset this week.

The legislation was sponsored by MKs Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and Haggai Merom (Labor). Poraz said the law will raise the level of real estate agents, who will have to prove themselves in order to receive a license.

He said new immigrants have been exposed to fraudulent and manipulative real estate agents, and the courts have had no power to prevent such agents from continuing to work in the field.

Merom said the law would protect the public from unscrupulous dealers.

Under the new law, real estate agents will have to pass a set of examinations on contract, land, building and planning and tax laws. Exemptions can be granted to agents above age 60 or with a full academic background.

Although the law passed by a large majority, it was opposed by former Justice Minister Dan Meridor (Likud) and the chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

'Country needs more technology graduates'

TECHNOLOGICAL education produces only 1,000 young graduates a year, a number that does not meet the minimum demands of industry and the Israel Defense Forces, said Elisha Yanai, managing director of Motorola Communications-Israel, at the annual convention of the Information Technology Association of Israel in Jerusalem yesterday.

"We must address youth in their language. They all know what the NBA [National Basketball Association] represents in the US: quality and excellence. Our young people must know that Israeli high-tech industry is in the world's NBA league and is ready to accept thousands of promising young people at the start of their professional careers." The electronics industry here produces NIS 6 billion worth of goods a year, two-thirds of it for export, said Yanai.

A main event on the third day of the conference tomorrow will be the arrival of 3,000 outstanding high school pupils who study advanced mathematics, physics, and technology. They will meet with leaders of the economy, industry, and education and tour the computer exhibition that accompanies the convention, whose theme is "Information Technology - the Gate to the 21st Century." The exhibition is open free to the public today from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JUDY SIEGEL

Animal Rights Day celebrated

EVEN dogs and cats had their day yesterday as the country celebrated Animal Rights' Day with special television and radio programs, information booths, petitions calling for increased animal welfare and a special Knesset discussion on the subject.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid marked the day by releasing two rare wild deer in the Carmel nature reserve and signing a new law which will allow seven animal welfare groups to file cruelty charges on behalf of private citizens.

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz), a supporter of animal rights and the initiator of the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law, said the Knesset event was aimed at raising awareness and preventing animal suffering. *Liat Collins*



Albanian President Sali Berisha visits the Valley of Destroyed Communities at Yad Vashem yesterday, pausing at the names of Albanian cities whose Jewish populations were lost in the Holocaust. (Isaac Harari)

Chazan leaves Knesset session after Merom refuses to discuss NII motion

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) stormed out of yesterday's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting after chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) refused to discuss an urgent motion to the agenda on the National Insurance Institute decision not to pay demobilization grants to Arab girls and Jewish men who complete national voluntary service instead of military service.

The decision was later rescinded by order of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir. Merom said he had refused to accept the motion because it does not

relate to the committee's work.

Chazan said the NII's initial decision violated an amendment to the National Service Law. "It is direct discrimination against Jewish and Arab citizens and scores a direct hit against the principle of equality," Chazan said.

She said it raised the need for a Civilian Service Law to be registered alongside the military service law.

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan said he would raise his national

service bill for the second time today. Eitan called for mandatory service in either the military or civilian sector for all citizens.

"As long as there is mandatory national military service, all citizens should be obliged to serve in some form without distinction of sex, race or religion. It's inconceivable that while some serve in the army others are using the time to study at universities. It is manifestly unfair."

Eitan said if mandatory military service were ever canceled, his national service law could be rescinded.

LIAT COLLINS

Woman killed in Ashdod fire

AN Ashdod woman was killed and her son seriously burned when a fire broke out early yesterday in an eight-story building in the city. Twenty-five residents suffered from smoke inhalation.

At about 5 a.m. the fire began in a circuit breaker box on the first floor of the building, apparently when a short circuit occurred, fire officials said. However, one resident said she suspected the fire was caused by drug addicts smoking in the storage rooms.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon has instructed Fire and Rescue Commissioner Uri Manos to launch an inquiry into the blaze.

The fire spread from the box to an adjacent storage room, from where it spread upwards to other storage rooms throughout the building. Doors to apartments also caught fire.

Tamra Gingashvili, 36, was killed when she ran out of her apartment with one of her children, five-year-old Gavriel, although her husband had warned her not to open the door. Thick smoke and flames burst into the apartment and the rest of the family stayed near the porch windows.

Firefighters then arrived on the scene and began removing people from the building via the windows. They took control of the blaze that had spread to the stairwells and went up to the apartment's upper floors.

However, when they arrived at the third floor they found Gingashvili dead. Her son had managed to flee to safety on the upper floors, but was suffering from third-degree burns. Doctors at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital said he was in critical but stable condition.

Most of the residents of the building are new immigrants who rent through the Amigur company. Fire department officials said the building is old and its electricity network faulty. "There is no doubt that old buildings were not built to today's standards," said National Fire Department Commissioner Ephraim Ma'aravi. (Itim)

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A Greek frigate leaves the Salamina naval base off the port of Piraeus, bound for the eastern Aegean island. Greece and Turkey called on each other to pull back rival warships around the disputed island yesterday.

Greek, Turk warships in standoff over Aegean island

WARSHIPS from Turkey and Greece yesterday warily circled a rocky, east Aegean island, which the two NATO members claim. Each side demanded the other pull back from the area, but with no sign of either doing so.

In Ankara, the Greek ambassador was summoned to the foreign ministry where Turkey called "for the immediate withdrawal of Greek ships" from around the uninhabited rock island.

In Athens, Defense Minister Gerassimos Arsenis said: "We do not want escalation of the crisis. If the other side is sincere and also wants de-escalation, it should remove its (military) presence from the area, from our waters, from our airspace."

Arsenis charged that a Turkish frigate and helicopter had violated Greek air and sea space in the vicinity of the deserted islet of Imia, and had been warned off by Greek forces in the early morning.

"The islet of Imia is Greek and it is the responsibility of the armed forces to defend Greek territory, and they are in a position to defend it," Arsenis told reporters.

"The armed forces are in full readiness to deal with any threat against Greek territory," he said.

News agencies
ATHENS

"We will deal with the crisis with responsibility and self-control," Turkish Foreign Minister Deniz Baykal told parliament Greece "has put nine commandos on the Kardak rocks."

"There is no legal document that gives them the right to do so," Greek officials said that they had 12 ships in the area, and television showed more vessels - from frigates to submarines - heading out of Greek ports for the region.

Moscow said it was worried about the possible explosive consequences of tensions over the disputed islet, known by Greece as Imia and by Turkey as Karabak.

The rock, uninhabited except for goats and rabbits, lies between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Kalymnos.

"We cannot but be worried about the situation in such a delicate and explosive region as the eastern Mediterranean," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told a news briefing.

In Athens, Arsenis said Turkey had a MEKO-class frigate, two missile patrol boats and two

ordinary patrol boats near the island and another frigate further off.

The conflict began last week after the captain of a Turkish ship that ran aground on the rock refused to let a Greek help, saying the territory was Turkish.

Since then, Turks and Greeks have planted their own country's flag there, ripping down those of their rivals.

Greece's blue and white striped standard now flies over the outcrop and officials said Greek soldiers were on the island and guarding the flag.

A Turkish foreign ministry statement called on the Greek troops "based on the Kardak rocks to be immediately recalled and for all signs that attempt to prove Greek sovereignty to be immediately removed."

Caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller vowed the Greek flag would not stay. "We can't let a foreign flag fly on Turkish soil. The flag will come down," she said.

But she called for a negotiated settlement to the row.

Greece's new Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who took office this month, earlier issued a warning to Ankara that Greece would not hesitate to defend the island.

News agencies
BEIJING (AP) - Chinese Premier Li Peng yesterday revived a year-old proposal for counting Taiwan while warning the island not to use its March presidential election to promote independence.

Li offered no concessions for easing Taiwan-China tensions, now at their worst in about a decade. Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said it clear Beijing was waiting for Taiwan to "renounce any actions aimed at splitting the motherland."

But the premier also did not put forward a timetable for reunifying China with the island it considers a rebel province. Hong Kong media reported Li would, citing a senior Chinese official in charge of dealing with Taiwan.

Taiwanese feared the schedule would really be an ultimatum to join the mainland or fight its military. Taiwan's stock exchange dropped 169 points, 3.48 percent, Monday, but rebounded 111.5 points yesterday after Li's speech.

Li spoke at a ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People to mark the anniversary of Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's eight-point proposal for reunification.

A year ago, Taiwanese leaders responded coolly to Jiang's call and instead continued to engage in international diplomacy to raise the island's separate status. Frustrated by the rebuff and by Taiwan President

Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States in June - a first by a Taiwanese president - Beijing canceled talks with Taiwan, repeated threats to retake it by force and held a series of military exercises and missile tests near the island.

Although Li restated Jiang's appeal to end hostility, he did not renew the party chief's invitation to Taiwan leaders to visit China, nor did he urge high-level talks.

Li indicated those would have to wait until Beijing was satisfied Taiwan was not pursuing independence. He threatened Beijing would use force to recover Taiwan if it declares independence or if "any foreign anti-Chinese power" encourages it to do so.

Li also restated that elections on Taiwan will not alter its status as a part of China.

"It will lead nowhere if some people attempt to use the change of Taiwan leaders as an excuse to put their separatist activities in a legal guise," he said.

Taiwan rebuffed Li's remarks about presidential elections and called on Beijing to resume semi-official talks with Taipei.

"The presidential election follows request of public opinion and the world trend, and it has nothing to do with Taiwan independence," said Kao Koong-lian, acting chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, in a statement.

Fire destroys landmark Venice opera house

VENICE (AP) - A fire gutted the opera house La Fenice, a 204-year-old jewel that was one of Italy's greatest artistic institutions and scene of the premieres of Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata*.

Hours after the blaze was put out, smoke continued to pour from the opera house's marble facade. Charred beams leaned crazily against the interior shell. Fire tubes snaked along the alleyways from nearby canals.

News media quoted officials as

saying damage could be as high as 300 billion lire (NIS 560 million). The government said it would immediately turn over 20 billion lire (NIS 37.5 million) for repairs.

"We've lost the best thing of Venice," said Albino Strighetta, a gondolier. "The people of Venice are completely demoralized."

One firefighter was slightly injured. The artistic company was in Warsaw at the start of a long-awaited international tour. They immediately returned to inspect

the devastation of the theater, near the Grand Canal a five minute walk from St. Mark's Square.

Authorities did not immediately say what the cause might be. Newspapers said a short-circuit may have set off the blaze.

Mayor Massimo Cacciari said that work was being done on the electrical system on an upper level, where the fire is believed to have broken out.

He also said the old fire protection system had been deactivated while a new one was being installed. "The surveillance wasn't enough," the mayor told a news conference yesterday. But "there couldn't be a guard for every room and every box of La Fenice."

The building, closed in August for repairs, was to reopen in March with a performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and a jazz concert by Woody Allen. Local officials said part of the work involved an anti-fire system.

Britain bluntly rejects Sinn Fein demands

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain yesterday bluntly rejected demands from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, that it scrap a proposal for elections in Northern Ireland in favor of immediate all-party talks.

"No, the answer to that is no," Britain's minister for the province, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told reporters after talks with Sinn Fein head Gerry Adams called at short notice to try to calm nationalist anger over Britain's election proposal.

At the 75-minute meeting Adams urged Mayhew to drop the idea, which was put forward last week to the annoyance of the Dublin government.

Sinn Fein says elections are a further device by London to stall the group's involvement in talks aimed at turning 17-month truces by rival guerrilla groups into a permanent peace.

Adams also said it was unrealistic to expect the IRA to hand in their huge caches of weapons before such talks. Britain says rival guerrillas, who fought for 25 years over the future of British rule, must disarm to prove their commitment to peace.

"The only way to clarify this from the British government's point of view is for (Prime Minister) John Major to publicly retract on the election diversion...and also to publicly drop his preconditions for an IRA surrender of weapons," Adams said.

Britain says that since the banned IRA and Protestant Loyalists refuse to bow to its demand for a weapons hand over before talks, an election might be an alternative way to create a climate for progress on the impasse.

"What the Prime Minister (John Major) has said is it's all about confidence...that people sitting around the negotiating table are committed to democratic and peaceful means," Mayhew said.

Mayhew assured the pro-Irish Catholic minority that elections would not herald a return to one-party rule by the Protestant majority, which held sway in the old "Stormont" parliament near Belfast until London abolished it in 1972.

"It is (an) election to the talks process. We don't envisage an assembly or anything with... executive powers," he said.

China cracks down on Nazi mementos

BEIJING (Reuters) - Police have shut down a Beijing business that state television said was selling replicas of Nazi swastika medals, flags, gas masks, helmets, clothing and other Third Reich military items - "everything but weapons."

German diplomats in Beijing were caught by surprise by the evening news broadcast, saying Nazi revivalism was virtually unheard of in China.

"This is worrying," one diplomat said yesterday. "This must mean there is a wider problem or they (the government) would not be reporting it so widely. They would be keeping it quiet."

"In China it's crazy," the diplomat added. "You always have a few nuts in the US and Canada, but here? It's weird."

State television quoted police as saying promotion of Nazi goods and Fascist ideology was "seriously illegal behavior."

Spokesman Mark Regev of the Israeli embassy said Israel supported China's anti-Nazi efforts.

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مكتبة القدس

He provides a refuge from chaos

Swiss architect Mario Botta explains why it's important to put people's needs first, Esther Hecht writes



Botta's design of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is similar to a cathedral he built in Evry, France.

A museum and a private home share one primary function: they are places of refuge where people can gather strength to confront the chaotic world outside. "A home satisfies a basic need - for defense, for shelter. Even today, when we say, 'I'm fed up. I'm going home,' our home is the last refuge from which we then go out and face the world," Swiss architect Mario Botta said last week as he presented his work of the past 10 years. A museum is a refuge in a larger sense. Like a cathedral, it meets a spiritual need. "Both provide spaces for moments of quiet, to enable us to confront the whirlpool of change the modern world has wrought," he explained to an overflow audience at Tel Aviv University's David Azrieli School of Architecture. Botta - one of the leading architects in the world - is to be asked to design a synagogue for the campus, a university source said. MEETING MAN'S basic needs, Botta declared, must be an architect's primary concern.

Accordingly, a small, triangular house he built into the face of a mountain in his native canton of Ticino is almost cave-like, with only its silvery brick facade visible. And yet, paradoxically, the narrow rear of the house is the most brilliantly lit, with natural light streaming down a circular stairwell. A museum is a space for direct contact between the creator of art and the consumer of art, without any interference from self-appointed intermediaries like the media, he said. That direct contact arouses a response that is akin to a religious experience. Botta is fond of saying provocatively that "the museum is the modern cathedral," or, as he put it in Tel Aviv, "the museum is a secular cathedral." In fact, he sees them as so similar in function that a cathedral he built in Evry, near Paris, incorporates the most distinctive elements of his design for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Both have

powerful, simple geometric forms, including a cylindrical tower that pours light into the interior and that is cut diagonally so its roof becomes part of the facade. And, in keeping with his aims of simplicity, both museum and cathedral are built of just three materials: brick, stone and wood. WHEN BOTTA proposed building the museum of red brick, the major donors balked at the humble material. "They wanted a building with a strong identity," he recalled. So did he, but in a different way. He wanted it to be an "eye looking at the city." He also saw it, together with an adjacent brick building, as part of a "wall" marking a boundary of the downtown area. And he "wanted it not to get lost in the glass that covers over all aspects of modern culture." The glass-faced building, a hallmark of modern architecture, is anathema to Botta. The way glass is used today, "you can't see what's going on behind it." - In all of his work, he strives to get away from this kind of ambiguity and back to basics: setting the most primitive functions of buildings before esthetic considerations, using simple geometric forms and basic materials. "Simple elements help man find his way in the labyrinth of the modern city," he said. "This is not an esthetic matter, but bringing back values that man needs." BUT BOTTA'S use of basic materials is anything but simple. Take brick, for example, which has been used to build houses for nearly 6,000 years and which faces some of the greatest structures in the US. In the San Francisco museum, Botta stood some of the bricks on end, canted some at an angle and indented others. The result is a richly textured surface on which both sunlight and moonlight can play. The garden wall of a private home he built recently in Switzerland has an even more intricate pattern of bricks, providing a constantly changing tableau as the light changes. Thus, as he said, "every line becomes a plastic element." BOTTA, 52, was born in Mendrisio, Switzerland. At 15, he apprenticed himself for three years to an architectural firm in nearby Lugano. He studied with Carlo Scarpa, an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, at the Universitari di Architettura in Venice. While in Venice, he also worked with Le Corbusier and Louis Khan. All have influenced his work. His practice is based in Lugano and many of the private homes he has built are in that vicinity. Norbert Cymbalista, a Tel Aviv University governor who sponsored Botta's lecture here, commented, "As he walked around the university, he looked as if he were looking to build something." THE SWISS architect's approach is particularly suited to Israel, according to Prof. Abraham Yasky, who heads the university's school of architecture. First, Yasky said, is Botta's choice of materials - including cement blocks, bare concrete, brick and stone - which are available here in abundance, as opposed to lighter materials, like metal, which are not. Botta uses these materials with great precision, and in a northern country with meager light this might yield a cold, technical look. Yasky said. But here, the strong light and shade highlight the texture in a way that brings it to life. And because of the strong light - and the glare it generates - Botta's introduction of light from the ceiling, rather than through windows, is particularly fitting. Meanwhile, Botta the modernist had nothing but praise for Israeli architecture. "Tel Aviv is like an exhibition of architecture, of the modern style used in the best way," he said. "Europe is stuck with the past. Israel is proof it is possible to build with modern architecture. For me, this is a source of great hope."

'How comes' and 'whys' of a toddler

PARENTING RUTH MASON

As any parent of a two-year-old knows, the demands of child-rearing are intensified the moment your child can express her or his curiosity about the world by asking, "why?" About two months before his second birthday, "Why?" - soon joined by "How come?" - became my son's favorite words. Answering his endless questions has taxed not only my energy and patience but also whatever I learned to get through elementary school, high school and the University of California. In trying to explain the ways of the physical world and the human community to Yosef, I've come to see how limited is my own fund of knowledge. Why do we see images on our television screen? Why does a light bulb go on at the flick of a switch? Why do people send birthday cards? A two-year-old is a budding scientist with wide-ranging interests in physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, anthropology, zoology and just about any other field concerned with the behavior of people, plants, animals and the forces of nature. The day before his second birthday, Yosef received three birthday cards in the mail. We sat on the floor while he tore them open, and I read them to him. "Why?" he wanted to know when I was done. "They're birthday cards - for you," I explained. "Why?" "Grandma and Aunt Rosa and Uncle Leon sent them to you to wish you a happy birthday." "How come?" After several more attempts at logical explanation, I ended up telling him, only half-facetiously, that birthday cards were just a human custom. These unfamiliar

words must have doused his interest - if not satisfied it - and he toddled off to play with his truck. My husband thinks that Yosef's insistent "Whys" are automatic; that after the first one, there's no real motivation behind them. But I disagree. A two-year-old is a new-comer to our planet, and he might as well be from Mars. All our behaviors, habits and activities - from combing hair to wearing shoes to blowing out birthday candles - are foreign to him. He is an anthropologist who takes nothing for granted. Everything, from the most common social niceties to complex social institutions, is open to examination. Part of his task as he grows up is to make sense of this new world. And what better way to get the information he needs than to come out and ask? Asking questions is also a way to keep a busy parent engaged and to get her attention, but the absorbed look on Yosef's young face as he listens to my explanations convinces me that his drive to know is authentic. Yosef challenges me. All too often, I am at a loss for answers. More often than I'd like, I resort to, "That's a good question," or just plain, "I don't know." He make me think about things I haven't considered in years - if ever. How did the custom of sending birthday cards originate? How do televisions and radios and light bulbs and cameras really work? By our 20s and 30s, those of us with a liberal arts education accept the magic of nature and technology without giving it a second thought. Until we have a two-year-old. And then we have to give it not only a second thought, but a third and a fourth. I hope Yosef keeps the curiosity that so drives him now long enough to find out the answers for himself - and for me.

Time stands still at the Stalin State Museum

TIME has stopped in the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Perhaps the hands of the clock are still in his grasp, for the mighty forces of change that have swept through his Soviet empire have yet to penetrate the citadel of his memory in Gori, Georgia. In the late 1980s, as glasnost and perestroika began to lay bare the bloodiest of Stalin's excesses, there was talk of correcting the record at the Stalin State Museum here. There was talk of acknowledging some of Stalin's victims. As recently as two years ago, plans were being laid for a museum souvenir shop that would sell Stalin memorabilia in keeping with the free-market mood of the times. But like so many things across the vast and timeless former Soviet landscape, inertia prevailed. At the Stalin Museum, nothing much happened. Indeed, the only difference is that the museum's worshipful exhibits - removed for safekeeping to Austria during years of post-Soviet civil strife in Georgia - have now been put back on display at a time when more and more people are talking nostalgically about the good old days under communism. Stalin's boyhood home, a single-room cabin where he was born Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, remains untouched under the pavilion built in 1937 to protect it. The adjacent baroque museum was opened in 1957 - five years after Stalin's death - and the exhibits were

updated in 1979. Stalin's personal armored railway car, with its pre-Revolution mahogany trim, luxurious compartments and extra set of wheels, remains parked on the grounds. But it is inside the museum that a visitor finds time at a standstill, the cult of personality still fresh. Young Georgian schoolchildren are paraded through the halls, but what they see, the story of Stalin's life, is virtually the same display mounted in Soviet days. It is devoid of criticism, bereft of truth about Stalin's millions of victims, his brutal collectivization of farms, his purges, his prison camps. They just disappear. Depicting Stalin as a man of culture, one exhibit explains how he took an interest in the translation of a famous Georgian poem, "Knight in a Tiger's Skin," into Russian. Stalin made notes in the margins of the translated copy, which is displayed under glass. The year was 1937, but there is no mention of the poets and writers Stalin sent to the camps and to their deaths that same year. Another exhibit deals with the period of Soviet agricultural collectivization. A photo depicts an 11-year-old girl, Mamlakat Najkhangova, receiving an award from Stalin for picking cotton. Another depicts a beaming woman tractor driver. But there is no word about his brutal suppression of the kulaks - prosperous pre-Soviet peasants - or of the millions of people who died in the



Children stand in front of a picture of Joseph Stalin admiring Lenin at the Stalin museum in Gori, Georgia. (David Hoffman/Washington Post)

subsequent famine. Stalin's role in the Bolshevik Revolution and the years immediately after is portrayed as second in importance only to that of Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state. But there is hardly a mention and not a single photograph of Leon Trotsky, a central figure in

the revolution, who was forced into exile and murdered in 1940 by Stalin's agents. The onset of World War II is depicted with photos of brave Soviet soldiers rushing to the front. Nothing is said about the secret pre-war protocols between Hitler and Stalin that divided up Poland and the Baltic states, or of Stalin's panic as Nazi troops neared Moscow in 1941, or of his purges a few years earlier that wiped out a generation of army officers. Nor is there a word about the Great Terror - the arrests, torture and executions of suspect Communist Party officials and others in the 1930s. Even the display covering Stalin's personal life manages to skip over unpleasant details, such as the suicide of his second wife, Nadezhda. Nunu Jojishvili, a guide at the

museum for 17 years, said that when the exhibits were removed for safekeeping in 1991, "we talked about making changes in the history of the 1930s, but nothing has been changed so far." She took a pointer and showed a visitor the one critical item on display in the entire museum: the text of Lenin's famous warning to his colleagues - dictated in 1922, two years before his death - against Stalin's having "unlimited power in his hands." Jojishvili is not apologetic. "We think he was a great politician, and people should know it," she said. "We respect him. He didn't do anything for Georgia in particular; he harmed many and did good to others. People are nostalgic about this period; they come here and think it was not that bad." Zhuzhuna Khinchikashvili, who as the museum's scientific secretary is responsible for verifying information in the displays, said plans for changing the displays have been discussed ever since 1988, when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev launched his reform drive in Moscow. Gorbachev began to expose the dark secrets of the Stalin years and the museum was closed for a short while. "We met all the experts, and we asked for money," she said, but it was never forthcoming, so they put the old exhibits back up. (Washington Post)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table showing various stock indices and their changes.

New York market indexes table with sub-sections for NYSE stocks and NYSE AMEX.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Israeli stocks.

INTEL MONEY MARKET table showing dollar crosses and labor rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS table.

US commodities table.

London commodities table.

Spot market metals (US) table.

New York metal futures table.

London metal futures table.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of Tel Aviv stock prices categorized by Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and AFTERNOON.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and advertisement.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and others.

Indexes fall for second straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS fell for a second straight day after the central bank raised interest rates...

Also, in a note to the stock exchange, Clal Industries and Elite Industries Ltd. said they had broken off discussions on co-operating in the management of Elite.

Hanson's plan to demerge into four firms dominates trade

LONDON (Reuter) - Industrial conglomerate Hanson's plans to demerge into four separately-listed companies dominated trade...

PARIS - French shares closed with a big gain, rising by more than one percent to over the 2,000 level.

PARIS - French shares closed with a big gain, rising by more than one percent to over the 2,000 level.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed about 1% higher after a firming dollar, a stronger start in US markets and rising bond futures led the market up in the afternoon.

Dow surges 76 points

NEW YORK (Reuter) - The Dow Jones industrial average racked up its biggest one-day gain since last May to set another record high yesterday on hopes that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates to revive the slowing economy.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

Table of currency cross rates for various international currencies.

Sports federation president announces plan to resign

Sports Federation of Israel set to go on strike tomorrow

PRESIDENT of the Sport Federation of Israel, Yehzekel Harmelech, announced last night he will resign from his position as soon as the federation's financial shambles gets sorted out.

ALAN ROBERTS

at the two banks where it keeps its accounts. Moreover, it owes employees that were laid off as a result of the 18 sport associations going independent NIS 1,410,000. A further NIS 2.6m is owed to sports suppliers and NIS 1.8m to the sports unions to prepare for the '96 Atlanta Olympics.

In total, the SFI needs to obtain NIS 7,710,000 immediately in order to meet its financial commitments and continue its operations, Harmelech said.

A halftime show from Hell: Diana Ross lays an egg

THE Wicked Witch of the West won the Super Bowl. That much was painfully obvious to anyone who watched Monday morning's telecast on either Sports Channel or Prime Sports. Dallas may have won the game despite not playing its best, but Diana Ross - wearing enough pancake makeup to make Tammy Faye Baker jealous - was the one who really came out ahead in a halftime show that had to be seen to be believed.

SPORTSWATCH ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Channel felt compelled to invite over a studio full of entertainers turned commentators. To their credit, Sports Channel stuck with just one - Yair Lapid - this year, and he appeared to be sufficiently restrained when we caught him during a time-out.

"A fan who once attended the Super Bowl assured us that most of those at the game can hardly see the halftime spectacle, meaning it's pretty much aimed at the huge national television audience." The question then becomes who at NBC, which had the rights to the game this season, was so eager to boost Ross's sagging career that they agreed to this less than Supreme entertainment. Or maybe Little Richard was just busy that night.

tures, is first-rate. This week they focused on the problems facing Bnei Herzliya, and provided stats to explain the team's disappointing performance: almost 16 points per game less over the last four games, and a 16 percent dropoff in David Thirdkill's production.

Birnbaum resigns from Eilat

POST SPORTS STAFF

EFFI Birnbaum resigned as coach of troubled Hapoel Eilat Monday evening, and former Maccabi Tel Aviv coach Ralph Klein was reportedly set to replace him.

The club's troubles started in the pre-season when foreign player Lawrence Funderburke decided to leave the team, and grew only worse when center James Terry - brought in to bolster the club after the season started - was also injured.

Eilat had been picked by the pundits to finish in the Final Four after adding point guard Rotem Erlich and forward Dror Cohen to the roster. However, the club faltered early, and the arrival of new foreign player Dwayne Morton - brought in after Tom Chambers was acquired by Maccabi Tel Aviv, where Morton had tried out earlier - failed to change things dramatically. Eilat also lost several games in the final minutes.

THIS week's truly super effort was Monday night's broadcast of the Hapoel Jerusalem-Hapoel Tel Aviv basketball game by Sports Channel, part of its new Monday night Hameish Ba'avir program. The studio decor, featuring a closet containing the jerseys of the National Basketball League teams, is too much of a clone of foreign broadcasts, but the overall presentation, especially the fea-

Klein, recently let go by Maccabi Tel Aviv, was rumored to be Eilat's choice to replace Birnbaum. Ironically, it was Birnbaum - as coach of Bnei Herzliya last year - whose club beat Klein's Hapoel Holon to win the State Cup last year.

Meanwhile, efforts were continuing to find funding that would allow Maccabi Jerusalem to return to full activity after the club suspended operations due to financial woes. Maccabi Jerusalem played its youth team earlier this week in a loss to Hapoel Galil Elyon.



GOING FISHING - Vancouver's Doug Edwards (r) tries to steal the ball from Philadelphia's Jerry Stackhouse during Monday night's game.

Sixers snap losing streak

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 103-92 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies Monday night.

against New York. Rex Chapman scored 23 points, Alonzo Mourning had 21 and Billy Owens 19 for Miami, which hasn't won two straight games since December 3.

Anderson finished with 16 points, Johnson had 20 points and 17 rebounds, and Marj Gilger added 18 points. Terrell Brandon led Cleveland with 22 points and Antonio Lang 14.

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Philadelphia 103, Vancouver 92; Charlotte 88, Cleveland 86; New York 94, Miami 85; Utah 104, Detroit 97; Seattle 92, Portland 88.

It was the 76ers' first win in nine home games, but Philadelphia's 8-34 record remains the worst in the National Basketball Association. Knicks 94, Heat 85. Patrick Ewing scored 34 points and Hubert Davis had 19 as host New York defeated Miami and former Knicks coach Pat Riley.

Riley, who was booed lustily when his new team visited New York in December, got a much milder reaction from the fans this time and did his best to keep a low profile. His team lost for the 17th time in 18 road games.

GUESS WHO

Who interrupted Rickie Henderson's streak of seven straight AL stolen base titles in 1987? Harold Reynolds, Joe Mauer, Tony Fernandez, Dave Winfield. Answer to yesterday's 'Guess Who': Miami's Jake Scott was the MVP as the Dolphins beat Washington in Super Bowl VII.

All-Star reserves named

NEW YORK (AP) - Centers Patrick Ewing and David Robinson, and Utah teammates Karl Malone and John Stockton were among 14 players selected yesterday as reserves for the NBA All-Star game.

Chelsea wins at QPR

LONDON (AP) - Gavin Peacock and Paul Furlong, both replacements for suspended players, fired Chelsea into the fifth round of the FA Cup Monday in a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers.

through to the last 16, where it will visit the winner of West Ham or division one Grimsby. Rangers' Mark Hateley headed wide in the fourth minute before Peacock, replacing suspended Dennis Wise in midfield, scored the first in the 19th.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Magic Johnson fever hits LA

Earvin "Magic" Johnson practiced with his Los Angeles Lakers' teammates yesterday before taking the court in his first professional basketball game since retiring four and a half years ago.

Salley leaves Raptors John Salley, unable to get any playing time with the Toronto Raptors, arranged for a buyout of his contract and will try to join another team.

Phillies send Slocumb to Red Sox

The Philadelphia Phillies and Boston made a long-anticipated trade Monday, with the Red Sox acquiring closer Heathcliff Slocumb and the Phillies getting outfielder Lee Tinsley.

Salley and his agent worked out the deal. The contract was to have run 1 1/2 years and was worth more than \$4 million.

Police investigate alleged Seles threat

Australian tennis officials on Tuesday refused to confirm reports that a death threat had been made against joint world number one Monica Seles last week, although police said they were investigating a threat.

Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper reported yesterday that Tennis Australia, organizers of last week's Australian Open, had received an anonymous telephone call last Friday during which Seles' life had been threatened.

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